

2012 New York New Belfast CONFERENCE and IRELAND-US 30 COMPANIES LUNCHEON



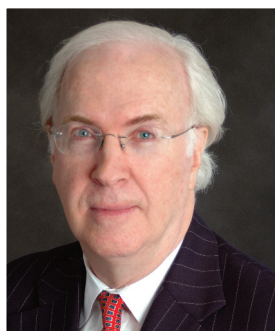
REPORT

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June 12th–14th 2012 | Fordham University; American Irish Historical Society;
Residence of Ambassador of Ireland to New York

CHAIRS

Honorary Chairs:



John Connorton,
Partner Hawkins,
Delafield and Wood LLP



Geraldine Hughes,
Actor/Writer/Producer



John J. Reilly,
Partner Squire, Sanders
Dempsey



Terry George,
Director



Shaun Kelly,
Vice Chair of Operations,
KPMG



Danny Moore,
Loughshore Investments

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PATRICIA FALVEY
PROF. JOHN HARRINGTON
FR. JOSEPH MCSHANE
SPEAKER
CHRISTINE QUINN
ANITA DALY
T.J. ENGLISH
PETE HAMILL
PAUL MCERLEAN
PATRICK F.N. ANDERSON
CONAL HARVEY
MARIE JONES
GLENN JORDAN
EAMONN DONAGHY
ANDREA HAUGHIAN
BEN CHRNELICH
MARGARET MOLLOY
STEVE ORR
MARTIN LYNCH
CAOIMHÍN MAC

GIOLLA MHÍN
TARA MCCABE
JOHN MCGRILLEN
FRANCINE KAVANAGH
ALISON METCALFE
MARCUS ROBINSON
RACHEL STERNE
RICHARD WILLIAMS
MARY LOUISE MALLICK
JOHN MURPHY
ROBERT BALLAGH
SHANE NAUGHTON
SHEILA LYNOTT
NOEL KILKENNY
JOHN LIU, COMPTROLLER
SAMMY WILSON
MP MLA

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Andrea Haughian		Margaret Molloy	CMO, Velocidi
Andrew Eaton		Marie Jones	Playwright
Anita Daly		Marie Jones	Playwright
Anita Sands		Marion Reynolds	Irish Northern Aid
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Anton McGonnell		Mark Marais	Sport Changes Life
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Clr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín	NYSE	Niall O'Neill	
Conal Harvey	Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge	Niamh Ní Cheallacháin	
Dan Dennehy	Deputy Chair, Titanic Quarter Ltd	Noeleen McHugh	
Danny Moore		Norman Houston	NI Bureau
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Darryl Shazier	Bank of America	Orla Carey	
David O'Leary	Sport Changes Life	Owen Rodgers	United Irish Appeal
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Deirdre Maguire	Sport Changes Life	Patricia Falvey	CEO, Dalradian Resources Inc.
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John Murphy		Terry Golway	
John O'Donoghue	Co-President Irish Network-USA	Therese O'Higgiins	Teneo Strategy
John Ryan	American Ireland Funds	Tim Coyne	Sport Changes Life
John Vernon		TJ English	President, Irish American Writers and
Jonathan McMillan	Citigroup	Artists	Inc
Kate McCabe	Enterprise Ireland	Tracy Marshall	Ulster Orchestra
Keith McKay		Trevor Birney	Below the Radar
Kevin Burns	CFO, Dalradian	Victor Gem	
Larry Kirwan		William H. Cox, Esq.	Gordon, Herlands, Randolph & Cox, LLP
Leo McGuire		Yu-Hui Su	
Leslie Cassidy	LPM Strategies, LLC		

ITINERARY

TUESDAY JUNE 12

American Irish Historical Society, 991 5th Ave, NY

- 6:30pm Home** **Bridging the Gap: Joseph Campbell and the Emigrant's Search for**

A discussion to mark the launch of 'Drawing Conclusions __ Mapping the Irish' exhibition from the Mayo County Council Jackie Clarke Collection.
Chair: Christopher Cahill, Director American Irish Historical Society.
Patricia Falvey (author Yellow House)
Prof. John Harrington, Dean, Arts and Sciences Faculty, Fordham University

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13

Fordham University, Lincoln Center, 12th floor Lounge, 113 West 60th Street, New York

- 5:30pm** **Opening Reception**
In Association with the Irish American Writers and Artists Inc., Irish Business Association and Irish Network-NYC. Launch of Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge USA ('Irish Language Investment Fund').
- 6:15pm** **A Welcome in Song and Verse**
With David O'Leary, Gráinne Holland, Mary O'Connor
- 6:30pm** **Céad Míle Fáilte**
Fr Joseph McShane, President Fordham University College (introduced by John Connorton, Chair Friends of Belfast NYC)
- 6:40pm** **Two Cities — One Future: Belfast and New York**
Christine Quinn, Speaker New York City Council
- 6:55pm** **The Ties that Bind: Developing Bridges of Arts and Culture between New York and New Belfast**
Chair: Anita Daly, Daly Communications LLC
Marie Jones, Playwright Oorlagh George, Producer
Marcus Robinson, artist/film-maker
- 7:30pm** **Irish American of the Year: Pete Hamill**
Terry George: A Tribute to Pete Hamill
TJ English, President Irish American Writers and Artists Inc. Pete Hamill
- 8:30pm** **Your Time, Our Place**
Chair Paul McErlean.
Glenn Jordan, East Belfast Mission
Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland
Cllr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín, Gaeltacht Quarter

- 9pm** **'The Humor of the Troubles (according to Martin Lynch)'**
With playwright, producer and raconteur Martin Lynch

THURSDAY JUNE 14

Fordham

- 7:30am** **Registration**
- 8am** **Business Breakfast. Our Time, Our Place**
Sammy Wilson MP, MLA Minister of Finance Northern Ireland
Chair Shaun Kelly, Vice-Chair Operations KPMG. Eamonn Donaghy, Head of Tax, KPMG Belfast. Andrea Haughian, Vice President Invest NI, Ben Chrnlich, CFO NYSE Technologies.
- 9:15am** **Super-Connected Cities**
Moderator: Margaret Molloy, CMO Velocidi
Steve Orr, CEO NISP Connect, Belfast
Rachel Sterne, Chief Digital Officer New York City
John McGrillen, Director of Development Belfast City Council
- 9:50am** **Maximising Golden Opportunities?**
Chair: Francine Kavanagh, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP
Richard Williams, CEO NI Screen
Rosemarie Cresswell, Executive Director USA, Sport Changes Life
Patrick F.N. Anderson, Chairman and CEO Dalradian Resources Inc.
Mary Louise Malllick, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Comptroller New York State
- 10:20am** **A Titanic Adventure**
Conal Harvey, Deputy Chairman Titanic Quarter Ltd.
- 10:30am** **2012-2022: A Decade for the Disapora**
Chair: John J. Reilly, Squire, Sanders, Dempsey . John Murphy, Chair Irish Network USA. Robert Ballagh, artist. Shane Naughton, Founder Inundata, New York. Tara McCabe, American Ireland Fund.
- 11am** **Bringing it all Together**
Next Steps: Sheila Lynott, President Irish Business Organisation
- 11:05am** **The High Line: New York's Park in the Sky**
Guided tour by Jack Linn, Assistant Commissioner of Parks, NYC (retd.)
- 12:30pm** **Fifth annual Ireland-US 30 Companies Awards**
Recognising 30 Companies with operations in US and Ireland. Guest speakers: Minister Sammy Wilson..
- 5:30pm-7:30pm** **Conference Finale Farewell**
Residence of Consul General of Ireland, Ambassador Noel Kilkenny. Guest of Honor: Comptroller John Liu. A reading by Geraldine Hughes. Music by John Gribbin.

2012 Conference Speakers

PATRICK F.N. ANDERSON

PATRICK ANDERSON, CEO of Dalradian Resources, is an exploration geologist, entrepreneur and business executive with over 18 years of experience working in the resource sector. After graduating with a geology degree from the University of Toronto, he moved to Venezuela to work as the resident project geologist on a successful Kimberlite exploration program.

Since then, he has been a consulting geologist on gold, base metals and diamond projects for junior explorers, major producers and mineral industry consulting firms in South America, North America and Europe. Mr. Anderson was a director, President, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Aurelian Resources Inc., which discovered a 13.7 million ounce gold deposit in 2006 and was acquired by Kinross Gold in 2008.

Mr. Anderson sits on the boards of Colossus Minerals Inc. and Continental Gold Limited. He was named Mining Man of the Year by The Northern Miner in 2009 and received the PDAC's Thayer Lindsley award for an international mineral discovery in 2008.

CONAL HARVEY

CONAL HARVEY is a main Board Director of Harcourt Developments Limited and Director - Group Operations. A graduate in engineering from University College Dublin, he has post-graduate qualifications in Management and Business Strategy from Trinity College Dublin, Irish Management Institute and INSEAD, France. Prior to joining Harcourt, he has held senior management positions in IDA Ireland including Head of Property and Divisional Manager for Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, with responsibility for all inward investment.

Mr. Harvey is Deputy Chairman of Titanic Quarter Limited, the Belfast based company which is developing the Titanic Quarter major waterfront development. He is also Deputy Chairman of Titanic Belfast Limited, the new world class visitor attraction project at Titanic Quarter.

He is additionally Chairman of Citywest Luas Limited which implemented the light rail extension to Citywest and Saggart area in Dublin.

MARIE JONES

BORN in Belfast, Marie was writer-in-residence for Charabanc Theatre Company from 1983 to 1990.

Marie's plays have toured extensively throughout the world, including the former Soviet Union, Germany, coast to coast in America, Canada, Britain and Ireland. Her plays include an adaptation of Gogol's The Government Inspector, which toured in Britain and Ireland, A Night in November (London, Glasgow, New York and three tours of Ireland), Women on the Verge of HRT (Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and London's Vaudeville Theatre) and Stones in His Pockets, which toured Ireland prior to the Dublin Theatre Festival and its West End and Broadway debut in 2000. It garnered many awards including the Lawrence Olivier Award, The Evening Standard Award and

three Tony nominations for best new play.

Other drama includes Lay up Your Ends co-written with Martin Lynch, Somewhere over the Balcony, The Hamster Wheel, The Blind Fiddler, Wedding, Weens and Wakes; Christmas Eve Can Kill You, Ethel Workman Is Innocent and Rock Doves, and most recently, Dancing Shoes - The George Best Story, saying it was quite possibly the most exciting project she had been involved with. Completing a UK/Irish Tour the production included standing ovations everywhere.

Marie's new play, Fly Me to the Moon's Northern Irish premiere comes after a critically acclaimed tour of cities in Scotland and England by Paines Plough.

Marie's drama work for BBC Radio Four includes The Hamster Wheel, Christmas Eve Can Kill You, Wedding, Weens and Wakes; and The Blind Fiddler. Her writing for BBC TV includes a three-part drama series Tribes and The Hamster Wheel and, for Channel Four, Wingnut and the Sprog.

As an actress, Marie has performed in most of the major theatres of Ireland and the UK. Marie's television acting credits include Life after Life, You, Me and Marley and Space Oddity. Her work in film includes Hush-a-Bye Baby, Middletown and the role of Sarah Conlon in 'In The Name of the Father'. She has been awarded two honorary doctorates of literature and an OBE.

NB: Fly Me To The Moon will be playing for a month at 59E59 Theatre, New York in September this year as part of the 1st. Irish Festival, this following a sold-out Belfast run.

GLENN JORDAN

GLENN JORDAN is the Director of the Skainos Project, a £21m urban regeneration project on the Newtownards Road between Dee Street and Templemore Avenue. It is a multi-use development which has grown out of the work of east Belfast Mission and is pulling together a range of strategic partnerships to address the social, physical, economic and environmental deprivation issues in the area.

Skainos is using a social economy model to provide shared space for community use which will also contribute to the sustainability of agencies on-site and to shared-space projects in the area.

Glenn has worked in East Belfast for 12 years and prior to his full-time involvement in Skainos, he was the Director of East Belfast Mission. He is particularly interested in how faith groups engage in community development activity and is a board member of the Churches Community Work Alliance and the East Belfast Community Development Agency. Originally from Bray in County Wicklow, Glenn has lived "up North" since 1987.

MARTIN LYNCH

BORN and brought up in Belfast, Martin has combined his roles of producer and writer for 30 years. He has written plays for the Turf Lodge Fellowship Community Theatre, Lyric Theatre, Arts Theatre, Charabanc Theatre (all Belfast) and the Project and Abbey Theatres, Dublin and



Paines Plough & East 15, London. He was Writer-In-Residence at The University Of Ulster, 1985-88.

His plays have also been produced at theatres across Europe and the USA. A production of Dockers was recently nominated for a Los Angeles Drama Critics Award. His best-known stage plays include "The Interrogation Of Ambrose Fogarty," "Holding Hands At Paschendale" and (with Grimes & McKee) "The History Of The Troubles (accordin' to my Da)."

He has written several plays for BBC Radio 4, including an adaptation of Ibsen's Enemy Of "The People" (2006). Martin co-wrote the screenplay for the Sam Goldwyn film, "A Prayer For The Dying" starring Mickey Rourke, Bob Hoskins and Liam Neeson (1987).

In 2009 Green Shoot Productions premiered Martin's play, "Chronicles of Long Kesh in Belfast." It has since been performed internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Tricycle Theatre, London, Welsh Tour, Irish Tour and an Australian tour. In 2010, Green Shoot Productions brought Martin's adaptation of a Sam Thompson play "Over The Bridge" to the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

In 2010/2011, Martin produced the large-scale musical play, "Dancing Shoes-The George Best Story" which he co-wrote with Marie Jones, JJ Gilmour and Pat Gribben. In January he directed "Brothers In Arms" by Sam Millar. He is currently writing a new spectacular musical play (with music by JJ Gilmour), "The Titanic Boys," for production at the Grand Opera House 8-25 August this year - as well as serving as Executive Producer for "Stones In His Pockets: The Movie."

CAOIMHÍN MAC GIOLLA MHÍN

CAOIMHÍN Mac Giolla Mhín was born, schooled and has lived in West Belfast all his life. He graduated with BSc Hons in Estate Management with University of Ulster in 1997.

Having simultaneously studied Irish Language both in a formal and informal and capacity, and with a long time interest in community activism, he took up employment with local Irish Language Development Agency, Forbairt Feirste.

He has managed and championed many community projects in West Belfast cutting across the themes of Tourism, Economic Development, Irish language, Republican Ex-Prisoner issues and general family support, health and educational issues associated with disadvantaged communities, in a voluntary and paid capacity over a 15 year period.

Also took up employment with Belfast City Council's Economic Development Unit and subsequently having to leave to become a local Sinn Féin councillor in October 2010, through co option. Caoimhín was elected in May 2011. Caoimhín currently sits on Strategic Policy and

Resources, Development Committee and Parks & Leisure committees in Belfast City Council.

Eventually, Caoimhín returned to employment related to his academic back ground when appointed as Director of Ciste Gaeilge, responsible for an £8m capital investment fund. This fund will be crucial to the long term physical development of Irish cultural centres which in turn will become the centers for people to embrace and learn the Irish language.

Caoimhín sees the golden opportunity for Irish America to work in partnership in developing the infrastructure needed to sustain the growth of the Irish language for all who chose to embrace it both in Ireland and in the United States.

TARA MCCABE

TARA MCCABE works at Morgan Stanley as an Executive Director in wealth management overseeing product development for fund of hedge funds. Over 12 years with the firm, she has served as chief administrative officer for Investment Products and Client Solutions, chief of staff for Alternative Investments and vice president in Private Wealth Management, London. Tara began her career at Prudential.

A first generation American whose parents are from Leitrim, Tara serves on the Board of Directors for the American Ireland Fund, which previously voted her Young Leader of the Year. A passionate and dedicated supporter, Tara has been instrumental in the growth of their Young Leaders program and consistently visits the Fund's inspiring projects throughout Ireland with the Fund's conferences. By invitation of the Irish Government, she is a member of the Global Irish Network and participated in the Global Irish Economic Forums in 2009 and 2011. Tara is also a young patron of the Irish Arts Center.

Tara serves as Co-Chair for Cristo Rey High School's Advisory Committee, which provides students from low-income urban families access to college-prep education. For her business and community involvement, Tara was named to Business and Finance's "Most Influential US-Irish Business Leaders: One to Watch," the Irish Voice's "75 Most Influential Women" and the Irish Echo's "Top 40 Under 40." Tara graduated from the College of the Holy Cross and studied at the National University of Ireland - Galway. She is also seven-time marathon finisher.

JOHN MCGRILLEN

JOHN McGrillen is Director of Development, Belfast City Council

Born in March, 1962 he graduated from Queen's University in 1983 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. The following year he completed a MSc and joined Short Brothers as a Systems Engineer working in the Missile Systems Division in Castlereagh.



In 1987 he left Shorts to join the Industrial Development Board, the forerunner to Invest NI where he spend the first 18 months at the University of Ulster completing an MBA in International Business and Industrial Development. In November 1989, following a nine-month placement with Nortel, he moved to Dusseldorf, Germany where he was the officer responsible for IDB's inward investment activities in mainland Europe for the next 4 years.

In 1993 he returned to Belfast and took up the position of Client Executive where he worked closely with some of Northern Ireland's largest manufacturers, including FG Wilson and Powerscreen and played a key role in supporting the international expansion of those businesses.

In 1997 John was appointed Chief Executive of NI-CO, a Belfast based international development consultancy company, which is involved in delivering projects on behalf of the World Bank, EU, United Nations and the Department for International Development in developing countries across the globe. During that time he worked extensively on development projects in Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union and Eastern and Southern Africa.

John was appointed Chief Executive of Down District Council in September 1999.

In March 2010, he joined Belfast City Council as Director of Development responsible for council's role in European affairs, economic development, tourism culture and arts, city events, planning and transport, community services and neighborhood development, and the management of St. George's and Smithfield Markets and the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall.

The Development Department's purpose is "to play a key role in supporting the council to improve quality of life by creating a city which is competitive, connected, confident and cohesive."

ALISON METCALFE



BASED in New York, Alison has responsibility for leading Tourism Ireland's Marketing Strategy and Operations in the USA. Specifically she is responsible for guiding Tourism Ireland's integrated marketing team which includes, consumer advertising and direct marketing, digital and social media engagement, publicity, sponsorship, trade and consumer promotions.

She joined Tourism Ireland in 2002 and previously held the position of Vice President, Canada.

Alison has 20 years experience in the destination marketing, advertising and communications business and has worked in the UK, Europe and North America. Prior to joining Tourism Ireland, she held the position of Director Canada for the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and was also responsible for Business Development in Asia during her tenure.

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When not living and working in North America, Alison likes to spend as much time as possible with family and friends at her home in Co. Down.

CHRISTINE QUINN

CHRISTINE Callahan Quinn is the first Irish-American Speaker of the New York City Council. She was born to grandparents from Newmarket Co. Cork, Schull Co. Cork and Killmahill Co. Clare.

Speaker Quinn's maternal grandmother made her voyage to the United States on the Titanic and was one of the few young girls from steerage to make it out of the ship alive. Her proud Irish roots are reflected in her long time support of Irish and Irish American causes.

Speaker Quinn has worked hard to support the Irish Arts Center and their efforts to build a new venue to showcase Irish culture and arts. This state-of-the-art facility will be a bright gem of cultural capital on the west side of Manhattan.



The Emerald Isle Immigration Center also claims Speaker Quinn as an unwavering supporter. Through the backing of New York City and its Irish community the EIIIC provides essential immigration services to the Irish as well as a range of immigrant communities as diverse as New York City itself.

Christine Quinn has been a strong supporter of the ongoing efforts to secure lasting peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland. At the forefront of this effort are finding innovative

ways New York City can work with Belfast to spur our local economies and help small business owners.

Speaker Quinn has initiated a dialogue between cultural institutions and community groups in New York City and Belfast. These groups can share their best practices and collaborate together on future projects that improve the lives of residents in both cities.

She convened a meeting between the Minister of Employment and Learning and City University New York. At that meeting an agreement was made to increase the number of student exchange programs between New York City and the North.

By building links between our higher learning institutions, New York City and the North can strengthen the bonds between our younger generations and foster an exchange of ideas around culture and business.

MARCUS ROBINSON

MARCUS Robinson's works of art have been exhibited around the world. As a photographer in Paris from 1982 to 1998 his characteristic, painterly images were exhibited in one-man shows and featured regularly on the front covers of magazines. His photograph of the French World Cup Stadium was used as the image to inaugurate the very first match played there, ahead of the World Cup in 1998.

He moved to London in 1999 where his time-lapse film about the London Eye was broadcast on Channel 4 on the eve of the new millennium to reveal the iconic new architectural wonder to the nation. His book of photography 'Eye', was published in 2007. His time-lapse films are set to music and focus on urban transformation. His paintings have been sold by galleries in Ireland and the South of France, and many of his works are in private collections in London, Paris, New York, Brussels, Geneva and Larnaca.

He is best known for his time-lapse film and ongoing series of

drawings and paintings that are documenting the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site in New York. He currently lives and works in New York. He was born in Belfast and studied at Cambridge University where he received a BA in Modern Languages.

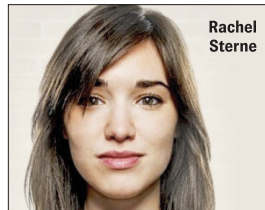
RACHEL STERNE

RACHEL Sterne is the Chief Digital Officer for the City of New York, leading NYC Digital, part of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. Her role was established in January 2011 by Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Katherine Oliver, is guided by the City's digital roadmap, a plan that the Mayor and Sterne introduced in May 2011.

The City's digital roadmap focuses on four core pillars of Access, Open Government, Engagement and Industry. The full strategy is available at nyc.gov/digital.

Prior to this role, Rachel was an independent digital strategy consultant, and Founder and CEO of GroundReport, a social enterprise and participatory journalism platform that enables reporters to publish original news to an international audience. She founded GroundReport in 2006 with the mission to democratize the media and help the world share its stories.

Before this, Rachel worked in Business Development at an open source software company and served as a Political Intern at the UN Security Council for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. She has also



served as an Adjunct Professor at Columbia Business School, specializing in social media and entrepreneurship.

A lifelong New Yorker, Rachel attended public schools and graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a BA in History. She is available at [@rachelsterne](https://twitter.com/rachelsterne) on Twitter. In 2012 she was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

RICHARD WILLIAMS

RICHARD Williams has been Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Screen for nine years, during which time turnover has risen from £1 million to over £12 million and so resulting in NIS being the most successful screen agency in the UK.

Under Richard's leadership, Northern Ireland Screen developed the Paint Hall at Titanic Quarter as a film studio and used it to attract Walden Media and Universal Pictures to produce films based there. The facility has subsequently been let out to HBO's "Game of Thrones."

During his time at the helm, Northern Ireland Screen has supported the development and production of digital content projects including "Hunger" for which Steve McQueen won the Camera D'Or and Terry and Oorlagh George's Oscar winner, "The Shore."

Richard worked for almost 10 years with Waddell Media and, during that time, represented Northern Ireland on PACT, the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television. He also previously worked in newspaper management and was a commercial solicitor.



SAMMY WILSON MP MLA

SAMMY Wilson MP MLA was born in Belfast in April 1953. Educated at Methodist College Belfast, he went on to graduate in Economics from Queens University Belfast and then from Stranmillis Teaching College. He took up a teaching post at Grosvenor Grammar School where he was to become Head of Economics and Assistant Chief Examiner for A-Level Economics in Northern Ireland.

He began his life in politics as the Democratic Unionist Party Press Officer and in 1981 he was elected as a DUP councillor to Belfast City Council. He became the first person from the party to serve as Lord Mayor of the City in 1986/1987 and did so again in 2000/2001.

He was elected to the Northern Ireland Forum in May 1996 for the constituency of East Belfast (1996-98) and went on to represent this area again after the Northern Ireland Assembly in June 1998. In November 2003, he became the MLA for East Antrim which he continues to represent in the Assembly and in May 2005, he became its MP.

He is a former member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and Northern Ireland Housing Council. After the restoration of devolution in 2007, Mr. Wilson was appointed by his Party leader to serve as the Chairman of the Education Committee until June 2008. Mr. Wilson previously served as the Minister for the Environment until July 2009 when he was appointed Minister for Finance and Personnel.



NY/NB raising curtain on a bright new Belfast

BY MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR, PRESIDENT, IRISH ECHO

THE MEDIA gods tell us one billion people saw the MTV Europe Awards beamed live from Belfast last November - transforming forever the image of that storied city.

Indeed, when it comes to tipping point moments for Belfast, the MTV extravaganza is up there with Senator George Mitchell's Good Friday Agreement sign-off, and President Clinton's address at the switching on of the Christmas lights at City Hall in 1995.

That's why this week's New York-New Belfast conference is delighted to be honoring the Viacom International CEO who brought the MTV Awards to Belfast - even though the name of Bob Bakish isn't one you will have seen previously in any roll call of Irish American stalwarts.

You might say that too of Wall Street titan, Peter A. Cohen, another honoree at the gala luncheon during the summit recognizing 30 companies with significant operations in the U.S. and Ireland.

However, the former American Express chairman heads up the Cowen Group Inc., a leading New York firm which recently set up shop in the burgeoning financial services sector of Belfast.

Peter A. Cohen finds himself in familiar company in Belfast for his neighbors there include Citi and NYSE, two Big Apple bellwethers employing between them over 800 people in the city.

At a stretch, you might just say that another honoree at the luncheon, Patrick F.N. Anderson, CEO of Dalradian Resources Inc., is also involved in financial services - at the base level.

For Anderson's company is mining for gold in the hills of Tyrone and Derry. Listed on the Toronto stock exchange, shareholders in Dalradian firmly believe there are golden opportunities across the Atlantic.

Joining the above to pick up special awards at the Fordham gathering will be Brian Stack, managing director of CIE Tours, which is this year celebrating 80 years of bringing tourists to Ireland, Portadown-based pharmaceutical company Almac, which now boasts an ultra-modern plant in Pennsylvania, and Amgen, arguably the most innovative U.S. pharmaceutical company with operations in Ireland.

Made possible by the support of KPMG, the Ireland-US 30 luncheon rightly places a special focus on commerce during our third annual New York-New Belfast luncheon, but the other two themes of the summit - community and culture - will be equally well-served.

And that's how it should be because the golden bridge between New York and Belfast is strongest when it embraces our artists and community leaders just as warmly as our business champions.

After all, as Terry George - who will grace New York-New Belfast to pay tribute to Big Apple poet laureate Pete Hamill - is fond of pointing out, if Ireland doesn't support its fledgling artists and writers then it won't have the scriptwriters and filmmakers who form the bedrock of the island's creative arts industry.

We suspect that's a view with which HBO - now producing "Game of Thrones" in Belfast - and, indeed, MTV, would concur.



Cowen Group's Peter A. Cohen.



Dalradian's Patrick Anderson.



Viacom's Bob Bakish.

Pete and Terry personify two standout towns

BY RAY O'HANLON, EDITOR, IRISH ECHO

CHALLENGING towns both of them.

Belfast and New York are not places where you go to kick up your heels and suck from tall glasses with little colored umbrellas sprouting out of them.

Of course you can do just that if you like.

But there are better things to do: things like dreaming up an Oscar-winning movie script, or a bestselling novel.

Belfast has a particular edge that inspires creative thought, and so, of course, does New York. They are a good match. And so too are Pete Hamill and Terry George.

The former is a son of New York and grandson of Belfast; the latter is a son of Belfast and adopted son of New York. When they look each other in the eye there is an understanding between these two men.

That understanding will be reborn this week when Terry George presents Pete Hamill with a memento to mark the fact that Hamill is the Irish Echo's Irish American of the year.

But of course this moment in time will be about far more than salutary words and the passing from hand to hand of a piece of crystal.

It will also be an affirmation that the creative gene that inhabits the Irish soul is alive and well, no matter where in the world it takes flight.

Pete Hamill can rightly be hailed as the "Bard of New York." He is seen the world over as one of the ultimate experts on the world's ultimate city.

Hamill's name can be found on the covers of a stack of bestsellers. But he takes special pride in a lesser known work, carried out in conjunction with other members of his family, and privately published.

It is entitled "Anne Devlin Hamill - An Irish-American Odyssey," and it relates the extraordinary life of the Hamill family matriarch, Anne Devlin, who hailed from Belfast's Short Strand and who arrived in the United States on the



Pete Hamill.

day of the Wall Street Crash.

Anne would meet her husband William "Billy" Hamill at an Irish dance hall in Brooklyn.

Billy himself was a Belfast native, hailing from Locan Street in the Beechmount area of West Belfast, on the other side of town from Anne's Short Strand.

The couple married in December 1934 and set up home in Brooklyn where they would rear seven children, six sons and one daughter.

The story of the Hamill family is an

Irish American saga, a tale worthy of Terry George's directorial hand if someone ever thought to put it on screen.

George has been for some years now a leading man in that part of the global film industry that plants a foot on each side of the Atlantic.

Earlier this year, Terry and his daughter, Oorlagh, won Oscars for "The Shore," which won the Academy Award in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 84th Annual Academy Awards in Hollywood.

At this week's New York-New Belfast gathering, however, recipient Terry changes role to one of presenter.

And it's a part he will play with aplomb, while being ably assisted by another great Irish American man of letters, TJ English, president of the Irish American Writers and Artists and a man who, like Pete Hamill and Terry George, knows all about being New York's capacity for absorbing the creative energies of new arrivals, he being a native son of Tacoma, Washington, a port city with its own version of that singular Belfast and New York edge.



Terry and Oorlagh George.

Belfast: Looking back, ahead, and up

BY PAUL McERLEAN, CHAIRMAN, CATHEDRAL QUARTER TRUST, BELFAST

IN BELFAST, this year has been talked of as one of Titanic celebration: both metaphorically and literally with the opening of a world-class visitor attraction to remember and celebrate the famous ocean-liner.

However, at the outset of the third New York, New Belfast conference, I'm reminded of another set of engineers whose manufacturing work is synonymous with Northern Ireland. Their work, however, was focused on the sky rather than the sea.

The Short Brothers were pioneers in the early production of machines for powered flight. Their facilities, making some of the most sophisticated jets in the world and now part of the Bombardier group, have been in operation in Belfast for over 60 years. That is a testament to our industrial past, but also an indicator of the kind of high-value work that will sustain our economy in the future.

That creative tension that has faced Shorts - how to move forward while incorporating the past - is what's at the heart of this conference. Let us be clear. New York and Belfast are not comparable cities. However, the bonds of shared history and ancestry make it fitting and proper that Belfast follows the example that New York has set and ascends to become a truly modern, progressive and global city.

However, as the Short Brothers doubtlessly knew well, things in flight look a lot more serene than those that are trying to take off. Getting the damn thing "up there" doesn't just happen, it is a monumental challenge and it's one that New York has faced in a bold way.

Through strong leadership and powerful civic commitment, New York has become a safer city with a sounder economic base. It's also been extremely innovative in how it has approached the



Paul McErlean.

regeneration of some of its more challenging neighborhoods - empowering locals to act for themselves. We've been privileged to have seen some brilliant examples of this at our last two conferences.

New York has a vibrant tradition of civic projects, of a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship between public and private proposition and a flexibility that has allowed it to overcome the greatest of setbacks and display a remarkable thirst for progress.

As chairman of the Cathedral Quarter Trust, a body charged with the cultural

renewal of part of the center of Belfast, I look forward to hearing from a range of speakers who have inspired and driven lasting change for their communities.

In Belfast, we are seeking to create new platforms for creative expression, new venues that bustle with the sound of a vibrant cultural economy, a new way of thinking about things beyond the old binaries and most definitely a place that all of the citizens of and visitors to Belfast can share and enjoy.

It's about having a little chutzpah in talking frankly and without embarrassment about the cultural challenge that's being attempted in Belfast.

Yet at the core of it all, Belfast remains, as one of our most celebrated poets Louis MacNeice described it: "devout and profane and hard." The lofty aims of improving our culture can't be divorced from the practical and economic reality of making sure all can share in them. That's a point that Cathedral Quarter Trust is acutely sensitive to.

The programs that we are delivering create benefits for the real economy; bringing prosperity, employment and purpose to people right across Belfast. By enhancing our tourism product we are creating economic multipliers that ripple out to support hundreds of businesses.

In places that have witnessed conflict and loss, one often hears of the desire for peace and the aspiration to "move forward." What I see taking place at New York, New Belfast is much better: a dialogue on the tough detail of how to make that happen.

Paul McErlean is chairman of the Cathedral Quarter Trust and managing director of MCE Public Relations Ltd. in Belfast.

Titanic Belfast: an architectural eye catcher if ever there was one.

Inspired by Titanic tale, a new city rises

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM, TITANIC QUARTER

WHEN the master plan for Titanic Quarter was submitted, it was envisioned that the heart of this new, 185-acre urban community would be anchored around a cultural focus that captured the area's unique Titanic heritage: a building to encapsulate the energy and verve of the New Belfast, but also to reflect the industrial legacy that once made the city a powerhouse of the Industrial Revolution.

Opened in March of this year, a fortnight before the centenary of Titanic's maiden voyage to New York, the £97 million Titanic Belfast visitor attraction has done all that, and more.

It's a game changer for Titanic Quarter and Belfast as a whole, creating a shared space which all of the city's residents can be proud of.

Titanic Belfast is the world's largest Titanic visitor attraction,

an eye-catching architectural one-off which contains nine, mouth-watering interactive galleries that capture the Titanic's legend, all on the very site where the ship was designed, built and launched.

But that's not all.

There's an impressive conference and banqueting suite complete with a near-replica of Titanic's Grand Staircase, catering for 750 people with views over the refurbished slipways where Titanic and her sister ships were built.

Slipways is now one of Belfast's hottest outdoor venues, having recently hosted an MTV concert for 16,000 people and one of the world's largest lighting and firework displays.

Plus, Titanic Belfast has also secured the services of Dr. Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who discovered Titanic's wreck in 1985, to use the building's Ocean Exploration Centre as a launch pad for his award winning educational programs which incorporate live feeds from his ongoing expeditions.

When I joined Titanic Quarter many moons ago it was the archetypal brownfield development. It was a vast space of potential - an area which had once been home to the world's greatest shipbuilder, Harland & Wolff, and its 30,000 employees, but which had been ravaged by time and decay. Desolate wouldn't have been too strong a description.

Today, with Titanic Belfast at its heart, Titanic Quarter is alive. Where once streams of shipyard workers traveled up the main

arterial route, the Queen's Road, now we have tourists. Thousands of them. Just three weeks after opening, a staggering 75,000 visitors had come through Titanic Belfast's doors.

Over 200 events have been booked into its banqueting suite - ranging from wedding receptions to large medical, academic and corporate conferences.

In total, we expect 425,000 visitors to Titanic Belfast this year, at least a quarter of whom will be from outside Northern Ireland. Titanic Belfast is a vote of confidence by the people of Northern Ireland in their future, and their ability to recast their reputation in the world.

Of course, it's not just tourists who are bringing life back to the Queen's Road and Titanic Quarter. The last year has witnessed a number of other major developments.

For example, Belfast Metropolitan College opened its new state-of-the-art campus on site - a stunning educational facility catering for up to 5,000 students.

Belfast has always relied upon the talents of its people rather than raw materials to base its wealth upon, and the 21st Century will be no different. In the college we have a willing partner which is keen to design courses around the area's emerging focus on financial services, digital media and knowledge industries.

Around 3,000 people already work in Titanic Quarter, be that at the highly successful Northern Ireland Science Park, which includes tenants such as Microsoft and GE, or financial services workers based in the

The scene at the official opening of Titanic Belfast.



first phase of Titanic Quarter's Financial Services Centre.

Other developments include the Titanic Studios, one of the largest film and TV sets in Europe, Northern Ireland's Public Record Office headquarters, a hotel and 475 apartments.

Titanic Quarter may once have been a desolate brownfield site, but for developers and the city as a whole, it represented a blank canvass of prime waterfront land within a short stroll of Belfast City Hall. The journey so far has been exciting, but the potential remains endless.

Titanic Quarter is a new start for Belfast, but it's also the first installment of what New Belfast is all about.

Michael Graham is director of Corporate Real Estate, Titanic Quarter.



Dr. Robert Ballard in the Harland & Wolff Drawing Office.

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WYETH/PFIZER

Wilson hails a big Belfast comeback

BY ORLA O'SULLIVAN

THE GLORY days of Belfast are back with a tech boom that echoes the city's world-leading role in building the Titanic 100 years ago, Northern Ireland's Minister for Finance and Personnel, Sammy Wilson, told the third annual New York/New Belfast Conference at Fordham University Lincoln Center last week.

"Titanic was the space shuttle of its time," Minister Wilson, MP, MLA, and former two-time mayor of Belfast, reminded the conference audience.

Today, he said, the North's tie to sterling was the latest in a series of factors prompting world-class firms to establish operations in the city, he said.

"We don't have the problems associated with the euro currency and there has been a flow of money to the U.K. because it is regarded as a safe haven," said Wilson, an economist by training.

The minister also spoke of a campaign, supported by politicians across the North, to cut its corporate tax rate to

an alluring level that would "at least match that in the Republic."

Southern Ireland has long offered foreign investors a tax rate (12.5 percent) well below the European average, which helped it to become the Celtic Tiger.

It will be decided next month in Westminster whether to allow the North set and then lower its own corporate tax rate - currently 24 percent, a number that applies throughout the U.K.

However, low tax rates alone are not sufficient to attract investors, other speakers at the conference agreed.

Andrea Haughian, vice president of business development with Invest Northern Ireland, pointed to the fact that the Financial Times recently named Belfast as the top location in the U.K. for financial services technology investments.

Peace and the devolved government of the last five years had helped to attract firms, such as Visa, Hewlett Packard, and the New York Stock Exchange to Belfast, she said.

The NYSE is on its way to employing nearly 400 people in an expanding technology center, this following an initial investment in Belfast in 2008.

Initially, said Benjamin Chernelich, senior vice president and chief financial officer of NYSE Technologies, "a lot of people rolled their eyes, and said, 'It's not Tokyo, Hong Kong, or London.'" However, he added, "I think Belfast has the ability to become the leading technology city in Europe, if not on a greater stage."

Minister Wilson said, "The best ambassadors are people like Ben," adding that satisfied customers are arguably more compelling than the list of advantages he gave for investing in Northern Ireland.

The North sits at the gateway to Europe and has a highly educated, English-speaking population, Wilson noted.

The same taglines have long been used by the Republic to make it the world's second largest software producer after the U.S.

However, the North did not become a Celtic Tiger, said Eamon Donaghy, head of tax with KPMG Belfast, "because traditionally the private sector was weak."

For example, he said, "There are 75 Scottish companies that are listed on the NYSE but just one in Northern Ireland, although we have one third of the population of Scotland."

Minister Wilson emphasized that the North enjoys the UK's best technology infrastructure: information travels at 40 gigabits per second, a speed available in about 98 percent of the region.

"The New York Stock Exchange discovered that



Benjamin Chernelich of NYSE Technologies addresses the conference.

connections between Northern Ireland and New York are faster than between New York and the West Coast," he said.

The North also combines the U.K.'s lowest office rental costs and its highest university graduation levels (over 50 percent), Minister Wilson said.

Andrea Haughian said after the session that typical office rentals in Belfast of \$20 per square foot are "nothing," relatively speaking, and help make a business's operating costs 30 percent less than the U.K. average.

Minister Wilson said that the North presents itself today as a "hard business case," not a sympathy case.

In response to questions on when the global recession might end, he said, "I'm not convinced we have to wallow in recession."

Following up on the observation that there is said to be \$1.7 trillion held in cash in the U.S. owing to a crisis in investor confidence, Minister Wilson, said, "It's estimated that U.K. firms are sitting on £700 billion in cash. Something has to be done with it, or shareholders will say, 'We want some.'"



Minister Sammy Wilson speaking at the conference.

Falvey's books are 'love letters' to Ireland

ADDRESSING the opening preview to the New York-New Belfast conference at the American Irish Historical Society's Fifth Avenue premises on Tuesday of last week, Texas author Patricia Falvey recounted her heartrending experience of emigration.

"I am part of that long procession that has left our mother country sorrowful at our departure," she said.

"But the memories of home are always there, lying quietly until aroused by a smell, a snatch of music, a stray word, a drop of rain, or the sound of a soft brogue lilting in a crowd."

Patricia Falvey's first jarring emigrant experience came at the age of eight when "overnight" she was taken by her mother from her grandmother's Newry home and separated from her sister to live in England.

She set out for America at the age of 20.

"This time my emigration was voluntary, but my first was not. I was in England for 12 years but I never felt that I belonged. It was

not home. And so when I emigrated to America I was still searching for home. At that time I did not feel that Ireland held a home for me. My grandmother had died, my sister and I were estranged. And so I continued the search, maybe America would prove to be the answer."

Almost 20 years later, with Ireland pulling at her heart-strings, Falvey made her first journey back 'home.'

"I will never forget flying into Dublin on Aer Lingus and the pilot saying, 'for those of you who are returning to Ireland after years away, welcome home.' Even now tears spring to my eyes as I remember that moment. It was then I realized that Ireland was indeed the home I had been searching for all these years."

The Dallas-based author and retired accountant says her novels "The Yellow House" and "The Linen Queen" have helped her reclaim her memories and love of Ireland.

"My books, set in Northern Ireland, have been described as love letters to Ireland and that is exactly what they are.

"I want my readers to learn the sad history of my home and understand why it has taken so long to heal its troubles. I want them to feel the same passion that I feel for that beautiful place. And I want them to travel there and appreciate the majesty of its landscape and the warmth of its people."

The last volume in Falvey's trilogy, "Easter Lilies," will be published in 2013.

"I am delighted now to see Ireland, though the 2013 Gathering, reaching out to its diaspora, its far-flung children, and inviting the 'scattered' to gather again in their ancestral homeland. I hope going there will bring the same sense of wholeness to them as it brought to me."



Author Patricia Falvey, Belfast business consultant Denny Elliott and Tracey Marshall of the Ulster Orchestra pictured outside the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel.

Panel focuses on expanded role for diaspora

BY ORLA O'SULLIVAN

IRISH politicians' attitude towards its emigrants is "all take and no give," renowned Irish artist Robert Ballagh told the third annual New York/New Belfast conference at Fordham Lincoln Center in Manhattan last week.

Ballagh lives in Ireland, but said he believes that anyone entitled to an Irish passport should have a vote in Irish politics.

During a panel discussion entitled "2012-2022: A Decade for the Diaspora," Ballagh noted that in Ireland's straitened economic circumstances, "Our politicians are developing a newfound interest in our diaspora. I find it embarrassing."

As for what Ireland might do for its emigrants prospering abroad, Ballagh said, "Taoiseach Enda Kenny recently remarked that he intends to provide a voice to the Irish diaspora. The simplest way is to give the vote to emigrants."

However, Ireland's politicians are not tabling the constitutional reform necessary to extend voting rights to citizens abroad, he said. That right is offered by 115 countries overall, including all but three European Union countries, he added.

Ballagh noted the "ridiculous situation" where one of the candidates couldn't vote in Ireland's presidential election last year. Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, was barred because he resides north of the border.

Another panelist, John Murphy, chair of the Irish Network USA, which fosters economic and social ties between Ireland and the U.S., questioned Ballagh's proposal.

"People might say wait a minute, I'm not so sure I want millions of people around the world being able to have a say in how my roads are built," Murphy said.

Should Ballagh's call be heeded, the biggest impact would likely be in Northern Ireland, where most residents are entitled to Republic of Ireland passports.

Ballagh qualified his comments after the session to say that, initially, Irish citizens should have a vote in presidential elections. Later, some Senate or even Dáil seats might be designated to represent the diaspora.

In his presentation, Ballagh said, "More than 70,000 people left Ireland last year," this as the country endured one of many waves of emigration that have marked its history.

Murphy, whose organization characterizes the "global Irish community" at 70 million people, said, "What diaspora means

really is giving back. But it's two-way."

"I'd go so far as to say there should be college-level classes that say this [diaspora] is part of the market," he added.

Shane Naughton, founder of Inundata New York, also urged attendees to use their Irish connections, as he did when he got involved ten years ago with the then nascent Trinity College alumni association.

"It has been said before that the global Irish community is the original world wide web," Naughton said.

On a similar note, Ballagh said, "One thing I continue to marvel at when I travel is no matter where I alight around the world I seem to bump into Irish people."

However, he added, "Many find themselves abroad as the result of some calamity at home."

The Irish Network USA is in the process of forming a new, regional chapter in the Dallas-Austin area, Murphy said. This adds to 13 others in cities as far flung as Boston, Seattle, and Phoenix.

Tara McCabe, an executive director with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, and a board member of The American Ireland fund, which has raised more than \$250 million to support peace and culture throughout Ireland, also spoke during the panel session.

McCabe, first generation Irish-American and the recipient of multiple awards as an ambassador for Ireland said, "The next generation will bring tremendous opportunities as we leverage the synergies across the different organizations that are part of the diaspora."

In another session on "Maximizing Golden Opportunities," Mary Louise Mallick, senior policy advisor in the office of the New York State Comptroller, maximized her talk time. "I'll be short and sweet. I don't have slides, but I do have money," she opened.

Mallick's office manages New York state's pension fund and has designated \$30 million for investment in Northern Ireland. She invited attendees to talk to her later about investment opportunities.

One thriving sector is film and TV, said Richard Williams, chief executive of NI Screen, citing, for example, the fact that HBO is filming its landmark series "Game of Thrones" in The North.

The tourism benefits probably surpass the £20 million spent each season, he said.

"The series shows probably the most extensive presentation of images of Northern Ireland outside of the Troubles."

The conference also served as a show-



Robert Ballagh.

case, with several videos presented of beautiful scenery and golf courses to evoke recent champions, such as Rory McIlroy.

Patrick Anderson, whose company prospects for gold, said he had taken the "golden opportunities" topic literally.

The Dalradian Resources chairman and chief executive said he was attracted partly by the political climate in Northern Ireland and credited the "very forward-looking" government for conducting a geological survey that showed the North's mining promise.

"That would have cost a company like ours hundreds of millions of dollars," Anderson said.

Before coming to The North last year, Dalradian was exploring in Ecuador, but Anderson said, "A change in government and policy made it impossible for us to work."

Work online is best done in Belfast, John McGrillen, Director of Development, Belfast City Council, told the session on "Super Connected Cities." According to a study conducted by the British government, he said, "Belfast is the best connected city in the U.K."

The Titanic Quarter's deputy chairman spoke of the blend of work and play envisioned for the 300-acre waterfront development that commemorates the centenary of the building of what was once the world's largest ship.

"It is re-establishing Belfast's pride," he said afterward the [panel discussion].

"The Titanic has great natural resonance with the people of Belfast, and not just with one side. Martin McGuinness's great grand-uncle helped to build the Titanic," McGrillen said.

Historical Society curtain raiser for NY-NB conference

THE NEW York-New Belfast conference kicked off on Tuesday of last week at the American Irish Historical Society on Fifth Avenue with the launch of the "Drawing Conclusions - Mapping the Irish" exhibition. At a special panel discussion marking the opening, contributors included Dean John Harrington of Fordham, an authority on Irish theatre, and novelist Patricia Falvey. The exhibition continues at the AIHS, 991 Fifth Avenue between 80th and 81st. Streets.



A portrait of Glenn Hansard by Belfast artist Colin Middleton looks on at the launch of the New York-New Belfast conference where guests included (l-r) Sgt. Séamus Ó Fianghusa, Patricia Falvey and Consul General Noel Kilkenny.



At the launch of the New York-New Belfast conference in the American Irish Historical Society were (l-r) AIHS Director Christopher Cahill, Texas author Patricia Falvey, digital marketer Margaret Molloy, Dean John Harrington of Fordham, and Consul Genral of Ireland, Noel Kilkenny.



Christopher Cahill, Director of the American Irish Historical Society, curator of the Jackie Clarke Museum in Ballina, County Mayo, Sinead O'Toole, the chairman of Mayo County Council Austin O'Malley, and Mayo County Council representative, Paddy Mahon.



Ben Chrnelych, Northern Ireland finance minister, Sammy Wilson, Eamonn Donaghy, Andrea Haughian, and Shaun Kelly at the opening of conference business on Thursday morning.

New York/New Belfast conference hailed as success

THE THIRD annual New York/New Belfast conference and luncheon, held at Fordham Lincoln Center Campus over two days last week, drew the biggest crowd yet to an event that combined cultural and economic components, and also a presentation ceremony in which Oscar-winning movie director Terry George presented author Pete Hamill with the Irish Echo's Irish American of the Year award.

PHOTOS BY MASSIMO CRESCENZO



Mary O'Connor, David O'Leary and Gráinne Holland read poetry and sang prior to the conference formally getting underway on Wednesday evening.



Anne O'Reilly, Denny Elliott and Tracy Marshall.



Fr. Joseph McShane, president of Fordham University and New York City Council Speaker, Christine Quinn.



Margaret Molloy and Steve Orr on opening night.



Discussion panel members Anita Daly, Terry George, Marie Jones and Marcus Robinson.



Carol McHugh, Jimmy Kerr, Niamah Ni Cheallachain and Beraz Hossin.



Speakers Rachel Sterne, John McGrillen, Margaret Molloy and Steve Orr.



Karen Hale, Charles Hale, Nancy Oda, Cathleen Dwyer and Kathleen Fraier.



Three amigos: TJ English, Pete Hamill and Terry George.



Speakers John J. Reilly, Robert Ballagh, Tara McCabe, John Murphy and Shane Naughton.



Panel participants Richard Williams, Francine Kavanagh, Mary Louise Mallick, Patrick F.N. Anderson and Gareth Maguire.



At the Index 30 awards luncheon: Tourism Ireland's Orla Carey and honoree Brian Stack of CIE Tours.



Honoree Tom Walsh of Netwatch and honoree Jeff Wright of Aer Lingus.



Honoree Bob Bakish of Viacom, Conal Harvey of sponsor, Titanic Quarter.

Minister Sammy Wilson with honoree Peter Cohen of Cowen Group.



Conference participants set out for the highline tour.



Honoree Martin VanTrieste of Amgen with Shaun Kelly of sponsor KPMG.



Andrea Haughian of sponsor Invest NI with honoree Patrick F.N. Anderson of Dalradian Resources.



Conference attendees who were taken on a tour of Manhattan's Highline park.



Tom Mahon, Alexis Doyle-Balkonis and John Kearns at the Wednesday evening opening.



Honorees Joe Keenan of BNY Mellon, Michael Wanderer NYSE, Patricia Cunningham United Airlines and John Conneely of First Derivatives.

TESTIMONIALS

■ *THE NEW YORK NEW BELFAST* business breakfast was a great opportunity to hear how Belfast and indeed Northern Ireland has a lot to offer business in both New York and the wider US. The current US based inward investors have found Belfast offering a great supply of well trained and highly motivated staff and Ben Chrnlich of NYSE was a great testament to that. Andrea Haughian of Invest Northern Ireland outlined how they can match the needs of US business to the inward investment offerings in Belfast. Finance Minister Sammy Wilson demonstrated the enthusiasm that the cross party politics in Northern Ireland can deliver to make investors want to come to Belfast. All of this could then be significantly enhanced of and when Northern Ireland can offer a rate of corporation tax similar to that offered in Dublin and was pleased to demonstrate how this could make Belfast a truly global destination for international businesses.

Eamonn Donaghy
KPMG

■ The Irish Echo and its dynamic Publisher, successfully convened a vibrant New York Belfast Conference at a welcoming Fordham University. The Conference networked opinion makers and business leaders from both cities together in a very constructive dialogue. Business will eventually flow from such dialogue. The naming of Pete Hamill as Irish American of the Year honored not only a great writer but the rich creative spirit found in abundance in New York and Belfast. The Conference also recognized key business people whose entrepreneurial spirit and commitment is helping drive the economies of both Belfast and New York. Gathering so many New Yorkers interested in Belfast into one meeting room encourages and inspires all participants to draw strength from each other and renew or form their own links to the island of Ireland. Well done! Encore!

John V. Connorton, Jr.
Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP
Honorary Conference Chair

■ "The conference was an excellent forum to speak directly to a key group of influential stakeholders on emerging issues and opportunities in Northern Ireland."

Sammy Wilson
MP, MLA
for Finance & Personnel, N. Ireland

■ You did a fantastic job and we were very happy in sponsoring.

Shae-Lynn Mathers
Director, Investor Relations
Dalradian Resources Inc.

■ Just a quick note to say congratulations on a fantastic New York New Belfast Conference last week. I think it was a great success with some fantastic panels, and of course a great evening on Thursday! Belfast was certainly well represented and I'm certainly excited for what's to come.

Emma Swift

■ "The Conference with its theme of "Community, Culture and Commerce," gives New York and Belfast a chance to share best practices in city governance—especially in the areas of policing, entrepreneurship and tourism."

Christine Quinn,
Speaker New York City Council

■ Just wanted to thank you for inviting me to the New York-New Belfast Conference last week, and for all the support you gave me - giving me a speaking role, and introducing me at every turn. I had a wonderful time, and made some very good connections.

Patricia Falvey
Author

Thank you again for the invitation to the conference. I really enjoyed it and the evening at the Consul's residence was unforgettable!

Marcus Robinson
Artist

NEW YORK NEW BELFAST

twitter

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir @newbelfast
@connlamccann & @orlaithadams calm bfre the
storm of #NYNB New York-New Belfast conference
@irlfunds @IrishArtsCenter

@FrancisSchott

Welcome to USA @newbelfast. Have a great
Belfast-NY Conference #NYNB @margaretmolloy
@irishnetworkusa @irlfunds"

@JoyceMSullivan

.@newbelfast enjoy your time in NY, East River
runs and #NYNB @sineadmurp @fionnbharr3
@eddiwhyte @brendanbelfast c @MargaretMolloy
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@irlfunds

@newbelfast @connlamccann @orlaithadams
@IrishArtsCenter Wishing you all the best over the
next few days! #NYNB

@katemccabe

Registered late for New York New Belfast
conference but am looking fwd to it. See you soon
@newbelfast #NYNB

@NiallGibbons

Best wishes to everyone involved in the New York
- New Belfast Conference in the Big Apple over the
coming days @irishecho @newbelfast

@LenoxConsulting

Sorry I'll be missing @newbelfast, @BergenSheriff,
@MargaretMolloy, @IrelandinNY and other friends
at the #NYNB conference!

@calliepersic

@newbelfast Best of luck with the conference! If
it's anything like the last One City conf it'll be
great. #NYNB

@CMcIntyre07

Good luck Máirtín & the BMG team on the NYNB
Conference this week...Busy few days ahead, hope

it all goes well @newbelfast @OrlaithAdams

@patcarrolltouch

@newbelfast Best wishes Máirtín with #NYNB
from a wet and rainy Limerick

@work_west

@newbelfast Looks like a great line up. You're
getting very good at this. I hope it all goes well.
#gladIdonthaveyourjobdescription
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@SusanSteele3

@DigitalBelfast

@newbelfast ask Ben Chmelich of NY Stock
Exchange can I ring the BELL. For @DigitalNIreland
#NYNB #NYSEStockExchange #DNI
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@MargaretMolloy

Editor @irishecho affirms theme : culture ,
commerce, community #nynb pic
<http://pic.twitter.com/WdPWY41l>
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@WIPLive

Best of luck everyone! RT:@MargaretMolloy:
Packed room as @newbelfast kicks off #NYNB
summit at Fordham
<http://pic.twitter.com/p9JvvXzj>

@ChrisCQuinn

Giving greetings at New York New Belfast Conf.
"Amazing what we can do when we organize and
work together" #nynb <http://4sq.com/LXZM5F>

@NoreenBowden

Saw lovely clip of @marcusartist's film on
rebuilding of World Trade Center. #nynb

@daveolearytenor

Big thanks to Mairtin,Connla,Mairead and all
involved at a great event tonight at Fordham
University! @newbelfast @IrelandEmbUSA #NYNB

@caimhinm

@BigSwingingMac Máirtín O Muilleoir with Christine Quinn at Fordham University #nynb @newbelfast <http://pic.twitter.com/k7l8FhR4>
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@IrishAmWA

Thanks to irish echo and #nynb for honoring @irishamwa advisory board member Pete Hamill
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@danmc2

@MargaretMolloy @discoverireland Reasons to be cheerful, Part 3. Golf Digest poll declares Royal Co Down best course outside the US. #NYNB

@TheWildGeese

#nynb Pete Hamill ends: 'My parents were hurt out of Belfast. We owe all of them, not just my mother and father, to help (new immigrants).'

@IrishEcho

Sammy Wilson, #NYNB, says NI gives firms secure foothold in a very large market of 400 million people. @petehamillnyc

@NYSE_Euronext

"@MargaretMolloy: "Technology infrastructure is a key criteria in site selection". Ben Chnelich, @NYSE_Euronext #FDI #NYNB" @NYSE_Tech

@rachelsterne

Honored to be at #NYNB - thanks for having me @newbelfast @margaretmolloy! Tweet questions #nynb.

@mourneseafood

@newbelfast good luck with the conference Mairtin - hopefully will bring more investors and visitors over here

@OrlaithAdams

RT: Over 40 Parks in NYC has "Free Wi Fi" connect cities is this something Belfast can do?
@RachelSterne #NYNB
Retweeted by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@MargaretMolloy

Follow #NYNB RT @newbelfast: @DigitalNIreland live feed <http://www.belfastmediagroup.com/nynb>

@NoreenBowden

Shane Naughton up first. Entrepreneur. "Global Irish community was the original form of the WWW." Indeed. #nynb

@NiallSF

Go fóill ar am Nua Eabhrach #NYC #JetLag @newbelfast

@patcarrolltouch

RT @MargaretMolloy: Thunderous applaud for @newbelfast as #nynb conference draws to a close [PIC] <http://pic.twitter.com/y9cM4ac2>

@MargaretMolloy

Packed house for rousing closing reception #NYNB conference @newbelfast

@sammydouglassmla

@katemccabe It would be great to see you at East Belfast Festival in September. Are you at #NYNB? Look out for Minister Sammy Wilson.

@Dr_CMGreer

@newbelfast So great seeing you at #NYNB. The luncheon was fantastic. Looking forward to Harlem in July!

@loughshore

Congrats to @newbelfast and team on this week's New York-New Belfast conference. A fantastic event and here's to many more. #NYNB

@LenoxConsulting

By all accounts 2012 #NYNB conference another success! Congrats to @newbelfast and @IrishEcho- sorry I missed it!

@2013WPFG

@newbelfast @johnohyeah @niallsf #NYNB don't forget to tell them all about @2013WPFG :)

@NuaEabhrac

Hilary NY: New York / New Belfast - agus an Teanga:
<http://hilaryny.blogspot.com/2012/06/new-york-new-belfast-agus-teanga.html>. @NewBelfast

@irlfunds

AIF YL's @inundata 's Shane Naughton & social media guru @MargaretMolloy looking fab at #NYNB in NYC <http://yfrog.com/h4qcixaj>